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# HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Dennis Lee, Jr., *Pastor*

## Our Church History

The Hopewell Baptist Church was organized in the home of the late Rev. John F. D. Lyles in January 1956 at 474 Genesee Street, Buffalo, New York. Attending ministers were the late Rev. J. B. Williamson, the late Rev. John Washington, the late Rev. James Lee, and the late Rev. Crockett. The church was organized with eight members and the last of the eight, Mother Gladys Bonner was called this year from labor to rest on September 18, 2012.

Due to constant growth we moved from Genesee Street to Riley and Masten Ave., to Jefferson and Woodlawn Ave., to Verplank and East Utica Ave., to 1098 Michigan Ave. In 1972 the Hopewell Baptist Church purchased and moved to 1307 Fillmore Ave.

The organizer and founder, Rev. John F. D. Lyles served faithful as pastor until his death on December 8, 1987. He left us a legacy of "Love and Sharing." He worked tirelessly and hard to build up our church. He believed that a church is built on teaching, love, sharing, and fellowship.

In June 1988, the Rev. Dennis Lee, Jr. was called to be our pastor. Under his leadership and the vision that the Lord has given him for the church, we have continued to grow both spiritual and physically.

In 1996, Pastor Lee shared with the congregation his vision of a new edifice, and beseeched the Lord to allow us to purchase land and build a new edifice. Psalms 127:1 tells us "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it:" By much prayer, the studying of God's Word, and believing God every step of the way through tithes and offerings, we marched into our new sanctuary here at 1301 Fillmore Ave. on October 9, 2004. To God be the glory!

God has blessed us to purchase some additional land and we are looking forward to building a new fellowship hall and a parking lot. Many ministries have been added, but we are not finish. As the apostle Paul said in Philippians 3:14 "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Let us as the Hopewell Baptist Church continue to pray for one another, encourage one another, and love one another.